

Residence Hall staff, and the Chief Pages for creating and fostering a total learning environment that helped to make this achievement possible. A 200-year program, the Page Program is a venerable congressional institution that has grown and matured with the Congress. This achievement confirms that the Page Program is helping the young people who pass through it to meet the challenges of life ahead. We remain committed in the Program to not only provide a unique work experience, but continue the pursuit of academic excellence.

TRIBUTE TO DOTTY DELASSUS OF  
WEBSTER GROVES

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to pay tribute to the life of a valued public servant, Ms. Dorothy "Dotty" Delassus, of Webster Groves, MO.

Ms. Delassus has long been active in public service to her community. Since 1996, she has served as a Webster Groves City Councilwoman where she represented the citizens of Webster to several Commissions, including the Green Space Advisory and Parks and Recreation Commissions.

In addition to her service on the City Council, Ms. Delassus was involved in many civic organizations. She co-chaired Make-A-Difference Day and was a member of the National League of Cities, Missouri Municipal League, the Webster University Collaborative, Unite 2000 Advisory Council, and the St. Louis County Municipal League.

Mr. Speaker, the outpouring of support by friends, family, and the community made it evident to all what an extraordinary person and public servant Ms. Delassus was. Her husband and two children are a great testament to her life, and her vision and love of people will live on through them. My prayers are with her family, friends, and community today, as we honor her life.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSWOMEN  
CAPITO AND SLAUGHTER

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today Ms. BROWN-WAITE of Florida and I rise on behalf of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to honor the achievements of two outstanding women. Congresswomen SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO and LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER proudly and capably served as the Co-Chairs of the bipartisan Women's Caucus in the 108th Congress.

The Women's Caucus has a proud history, which began on April 19, 1977, when fifteen Congresswomen held the first meeting of the Congresswomen's Caucus. They were drawn together in the spirit of bipartisanship with the common goal of improving the lives of women

across the country. This tradition has been carried on for three decades.

Congresswoman CAPITO, the Republican leader of the caucus, has lent her expertise in financial services to promote financial literacy among women. She also spearheaded the passage of a House resolution honoring the important contributions of working women in World War II. The "Rosie the Riveter" resolution had the unprecedented sponsorship of every woman Member in the House. For these contributions and many more, the membership of the Women's Caucus honors her service.

Congresswoman SLAUGHTER, the Democratic leader of the caucus, has a long history of fighting for women's rights. She played a major role in the passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and has continued to lead the caucus in the fight against sexual assault in the military and the promotion of equal opportunity under Title IX. We are grateful for her commitment and dedication to improving the lives of women nationally and internationally.

On behalf of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, we are proud to build on the momentum established by the dedicated leadership of Congresswomen SLAUGHTER and CAPITO. Their invaluable perseverance on behalf of women has set an important legacy that the Caucus will build upon for years to come. Thank you for your outstanding service as Co-Chairs of the Women's Caucus.

SALUTING THE LEO COUNCIL 957  
OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
OF FINDLAY, OHIO

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute the Leo Council 957 of the Knights of Columbus of Findlay, Ohio as they celebrate their centennial year jubilee.

The Knights of Columbus of Findlay have sustained a rich tradition built upon the foundations of faith and philanthropic service. Leo Council 957 was started by a small group of Catholic men with the assistance of State Deputy John O'Dwyer of Toledo in the fall and winter of 1903-1904. Their hopes were to organize a fraternal organization to support their church and serve their community. After tireless work and recruiting, 75 new members joined from Findlay, Carey, North Baltimore, Cygnet and Bowling Green. The Supreme Council issued the original charter for the newly established Leo Council 957 on January 26, 1905, which was signed by 86 people.

Since its founding 100 years ago, Leo Council has grown to nearly 500 members. Through the dedication and efforts of the members of Leo Council, the Knights of Columbus has become a positive influence in the church and community.

The spirit of volunteerism and service of the Knights of Columbus is encouraging to all of us. Since their founding, they have provided support through a variety of charitable works both domestically as well as internationally. For the past century, the Knights have pro-

vided an insurance program for widows and orphans of its deceased members. Additionally, the Knights have raised substantial funds to assist mentally challenged and disabled individuals. Most recently, they have worked along with Catholic Relief Services to raise funds for the victims of the devastating tsunami that hit Southeast Asia in December.

The patriotism and positive influence of the Knights is recognized every morning by students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in classrooms across the Nation. In 1954, it was the Knights of Columbus who petitioned President Eisenhower and Congress to add the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Today, I would like to remember those committed men who organized Leo Council 100 years ago and those who have strived to maintain its membership's vigor and progress. I am proud to congratulate the members, their spouses and families on this momentous occasion.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of House Resolution 23, honoring the contributions and academic excellence of Catholic schools. The week of January 30-February 5 has been designated "Catholic Schools Week" by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, to honor the educators, administrators, and over 2.5 million students at Catholic schools across the country for their continued dedication to the educational process.

Catholic Schools Week began in 1974, and has annually promoted a different theme to guide its message. The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week is "Faith in Every Student," which demonstrates parochial educators' commitment to melding the invaluable process of learning with the guiding principles of Catholicism. And as important as the intellectual development is, it pales in comparison to the lessons of compassion and service to others.

As a beneficiary of a Catholic education, I deeply appreciate the role that the schools play. My Catholic educational experience gave me the desire to learn, the willingness to adapt, and the moral compass by which to lead. This education gave me the basis for the beliefs that continue to guide me today. Children in Catholic schools receive a good education from highly-qualified teachers and strengthen it with a daily commitment to faith, both in school and after the final bell rings.

I wish our nation's Catholic schools continued success, and pledge my support as they continue their ongoing commitment to quality education.

THE MILITARY FAMILIES  
FINANCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2005

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Military Families Financial Security Act of 2005. This bill will ensure the brave men and women who serve our country will not have to worry about losing critical services their dependent children need.

The men and women who serve in our Armed Forces are everyday heroes. I know about the valor of military families from my own experience as a military wife when my husband was stationed in Japan during the Vietnam War. As a wife and mother in a foreign country with two young children, I observed that many servicemembers were also mothers and fathers and were making the same sacrifices I was. Just as these brave men and women are working to protect our nation, we must likewise protect them and their loved ones through the laws and policies we enact.

In San Diego and around the country, some military families rely on the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI) for means-tested financial assistance. This safety net program is designed to protect qualifying families from poverty and provides access to valuable social services such as Medicaid. Without SSI, some special-needs families would not be able to cover their medical expenses.

Current regulations threaten some military families' eligibility. They face a unique risk of losing benefits due to the way military pay is treated under SSI rules. The Social Security Administration (SSA) considers anything outside basic pay as "unearned income." This method hurts servicemembers and their families since there are more than 30 types of military pay in addition to basic pay. These different pays, considered unearned income, result in higher countable income and affect eligibility. Just a few dollars can make all the difference in the world to these military families.

My legislation would change how the SSA calculates income for SSI eligibility by treating most military compensation as earned income. This simple change will keep families eligible for SSI benefits and simplify the administration of this program.

Last year, in testimony before the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, Social Security Commissioner JoAnne Barnhart stated her support for such a proposal, which was part of the President's FY05 budget.

As Commissioner Barnhart stated, "The provision would treat cash military compensation and civilian wages alike, and thus eliminate the present unfair and disadvantageous treatment of cash military compensation other than basic pay under SSI. The proposal would increase SSI benefits for most military families with disabled children, which are currently about 3,000 families. It would be a significant program simplification in these cases and would have a relatively small program cost of only \$2 million over 10 years."

She also mentioned how "determining the difference in the types of military pay is time

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

consuming and error prone, and the guidelines for making such determinations covers 14 pages in SSA's operating instructions."

As a proud member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am committed to improving the quality of life of the men and women who serve our country. This legislation is fair, overdue and demonstrates our nation's appreciation. This legislation will give servicemembers peace of mind from knowing that their duties will not jeopardize their families' eligibility for SSI benefits and related services.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation into law.

CONGRATULATING DAVID E.  
HAYES ON HIS ELECTION AS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT  
COMMUNITY BANKERS  
OF AMERICA

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of David E. Hayes, an outstanding leader in our community and the new chairman of the Independent Community Bankers of America, a group that represents almost 5,000 community bank members.

He is also the President and Chief Executive Officer of Security Bank in Dyersburg, Tennessee. A native of West Tennessee, Mr. Hayes began his banking career in Memphis in 1967, and since then, he has amassed an impressive résumé that includes leadership roles in many community and state level banking organizations.

David has demonstrated his commitment to West Tennessee not only through his professional career, but also through his enthusiastic involvement in the local community. He has served as the chairman of the Dyersburg Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Dyer County United Way, and president of the Dyer County Heart Association. He has also been an active member of the Dyer County Industrial Development Board and the Executive Committee of the Dyersburg State Community College Foundation Board. He and his wife of 37 years, Sara, have two children, David Jr. and Amy, and two young grandchildren, Joanna and David.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in congratulating Mr. Hayes on his election to the chairmanship of the Independent Community Bankers of America. We in West Tennessee are very proud of his outstanding achievement.

A TRIBUTE TO BILL PRICE ON THE  
OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I invite my colleagues to join me

*February 2, 2005*

in paying tribute to Mr. Bill Price, a lifelong supporter of the labor movement, a strong advocate for the rights of senior citizens, and a founding member of both the Senior Action Network and the California Alliance for Retired Americans. Mr. Price will be honored for his truly exceptional contributions to his community at his 90th birthday celebration on February 24, 2005.

Since his early years working in the hotel industry in Seattle, Mr. Price has been a dedicated union leader. In 1937, he helped to organize employees who voted to join the Building Service Employees, Local 6. After serving for two years in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Price moved to San Francisco in 1947 to work in his father's grocery store. There, he joined the Retail Clerks Local 648 and was an active member. By the early 1960s, Mr. Price was elected to the Executive Board of Local 648, in which he served first as Vice President, then Organizer, and eventually Business Agent until his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, after retiring, Mr. Price has been busy working to better the quality of life for seniors, families, and working people. A founding member of both the Senior Action Network (SAN) and the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), Mr. Price currently serves as the President of SAN and as Vice President of CARA. Both of these organizations value his leadership, enthusiasm, and persistent efforts on behalf of senior citizens in the Bay Area. True to his selfless nature, Mr. Price asked that his birthday present be celebrated through the continued support of these two organizations that he has worked so hard to create and develop.

In addition to his commitment to the labor movement and the welfare of senior citizens, Mr. Price is also an avid sports fan. A season ticket holder for both the San Francisco 49ers and the Giants, he continues to find time to root for the local teams.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Price celebrates his 90th birthday, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his outstanding achievements and remarkable dedication to the well-being of his community. I look forward to celebrating many more milestones with Mr. Price in the future.

IN MEMORY OF K. PATRICK  
OKURA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of K. Patrick Okura. Pat, as he was known to all who were fortunate enough to know him, led a long and accomplished career in the field of mental health and civil rights advocacy. My condolences go out to Lily, his wife and life long partner who stood at Pat's side for more than 60 years.

Pat's own life spanned more than ninety years and was certainly intertwined with the historic events of those years.

Pat went to UCLA where he earned his a degree in psychology in the early 1930s. At UCLA he also played varsity baseball, which